

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /069 W

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R 111420Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: DENKTASH OPPOSITION

REF: A. NICOSIA 1184 (NOTAL); B. NICOSIA 1056 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DEBATE IN TURK CYPRIOT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY ACRIMONIOUS, WITH MOST CRITICISM FOCUSED ON DENKTASH. ASSEMBLY SESSIONS EENGTHENED BEYOND 45 DAY LIMIT PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED. ONE DENKTASH MINISTER "FIRED", SECOND REMAINS ON EXTENDED LEAVE OVERSEAS; NO REPLACEMENTS NAMED. EX-BAYRAKTAR RETURNS TO HEAD TURK CYPRIOT POLICE. IMPRESSION IS OF AN INCREASINGLY BELEAGUEDAS WEAKENED DENKTASH WHO MAY BE FORCED TAKE RADICAL STEPS IN INTERCOMMUNAL ARENA TO RECOUP HIS INTERNAL POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. DENKTASH AND GOT HAVE ENCOUNTRD UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLY, WHICH SHOULD HAVE FINISHED WORK
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ON DRAFT CONSTITUTION DRAWN UP BY GOT EXPERTS ON APRIL 9, HAD

ITS LIFE EXTENDED FOR MINIMUM OF ANOTHER 5-10 YEARS. DRAFT DOCU-

MENT, ORIGINALLY LIMITED TO 37 ARTICLES, HAS GROWN TO 85 BY AFTER-
NOON APRIL 10. COMPLETION DATE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY NOT YET
IN SIGHT.

3. MOST CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CRITICISM HAS FOCUSED ON POWERS TO
BE ACCORDED TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS (TFSC) PRESIDENT,
WITH MAJORITY OF SPEAKERS ARGUING THESE INORDINATE AND COULD LEAD
TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DICTATORSHIP. ALSO, DENKTASH CRITICS HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF OFFICE FROM 7 TO 5
YEARS AND IMPOSING LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS ON ANY INDIVI-
DUAL. ADDITIONAL ARTICLES REPORTEDLY DEAL PRIMARILY WITH PRO-
TECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

4. DENKTASH HAS ALSO ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION WITHIN HIS CABINET.
PROFESSOR ALPER ORHON, APPOINTED MINISTER OF PLANNING AND COORDI-
NATION AT DIRECTION OF ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, WAS DISMISSED EVENING
APRIL 9. ORHON HAS BECOME LEADER OF YOUTHFUL LEFT WING GROUP
OPPOSING DENKTASH REGIME. SINCE JOINING CABINET HE HAS BEEN
FREQUENT CRITIC TFSC PROGRAMS. ORHON EXPECTED REMAIN ON ISLAND
AND PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. HIS REPLACE-
MENT IN CABINET (POSSIBLE TEMPORARY) IS TUNCER ARIF, APPOINTED
MINISTER OF COMMERCE ONLY FIFTEEN DAYS AGO. NEW COMMERCE MINIS-
TER NOT YET NAMED; TOURISM AND INFORMATION MINISTER CAGLAR YASAL,
ANOTHER ECEVIT APPOINTEE, ACTING.

5. TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY ALSO EXPECTS RUSTEM TATAR, MINISTER
OF FINANCE, TO VACATE HIS POSITION. TATAR HAS BEEN IN UK ON EX-
TENDED LEAVE AS RESULT BROTHER'S DEATH, "MEDICAL PROBLEMS." HE
IS NOT EXPECTED RETURN. (COMMENT: TATAR HAS FREQUENTLY INDICAT-
ED TO EMBOFFS HIS DESIRE TO LEAVE POLITICS AND SETTLE PERMANENTLY
IN UK.)

6. FURTHER INDICATION DENKTASH POLITICAL DIFFICULTY IS FACT THAT
NEW COMMANDER TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICE, UNANNOUNCED THUS FAR, IS
KEMAL CHOSHKUN, THE ORIGINAL BAYRAKTAR (CLANDESTINE MAINLAND
COMMANDER OF TMT). CHOSHKUN (CURRENT PSEUDONYM UNKNOWN) RETIRED
FROM TURKISH ARMY AS MAJOR GENERAL IN FALL 1974. HE IS REMEMBERED
HERE FOR HIS RUTHLESS BEHAVIOR DURING THE ALMOST FIVE YEARS HE
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CONTROLLED TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. WHETHER OR NOT DENKTASH
PICKED HIM VOLUNTARILY, SELECTION OF MAINLAND OFFICER FOR THIS
SENSITIVE POSITION FLAGS DEGREE TO WHICH LOCALS NO LONGER RUN
THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

7. ALL OF ABOVE FACTORS POINT TO FACT THAT DENKTASH IS AN IN-
CREASINGLY BELEAGUED LEADER. ALSO, RELATIVE YOUTH AND INEXPER-
IENCE OF HIS RECENT CABINET

APPOINTMENTS APPEARS INDICATE SOME
DROPPING OFF OF SUPPORT FROM DENKTASH'S OWN PEER GROUP. THIS
ALSO APPARENT IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEBATE, DURING WHICH DENKTASH'S
LEADERSHIP HAS RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED AND HALF HEARTED ENDORSEMENT.
GROUP MOST CRITICAL OF DENKTASH IS ONE ARGUING FOR CLOSER TIES WITH
TURKEY, NOT EXCLUDING DOUBLE-ENOSIS. SHOULD PRESSURE INCREASE,
DENKTASH MAY BE TEMPTED MAKE RADICAL MOVE IN INTERCOMMUNAL AREA
(UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED)
TO RESTORE HIS POPULARITY WITHIN OWN COMMUNITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, SPECIAL ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI01318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0131
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750458/aaaacbtb.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NICOSIA 1184, 75 (NOTA NICOSIA 1056
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENKTASH OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU, (DENKTASH, RAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006